and subsequent great drought, conditions were not favourable to the germination of self-sown seeds in the forests, nor to the general seeding of trees.

77. In East Khándesh coppice shoots in exploited coupes have made a fair start. The anjan (Hardwickia binata) seeded very sparsely during the year in this district. The unusual phenomenon was observed of a Nim (Melia azaderachta) tree seeding in the month of October.

78. Seedling reproduction of teak was generally fair throughout the better classes of forests of the West Khándesh Division and would ordinarily be excellent but for the effect of forest fires. Reproduction by stool shoots from the felled teak and anjan is uniformly good.

79. In the north of Málegaon in the Násik Division anjan was found to have seeded well, and the ground beneath some trees was covered with young seedlings as may be seen under beech trees in most years in Europe. But owing to the stripping of the leaves of the anjan for fodder seeds which had appeared on the trees in many directions had no chance to ripen. The tarwad, Cassia auriculata, seeded abundantly.

80. The rainfall in Ahmednagar Division, being 12·31 inches against 25·25 of the previous year, was not sufficient for the normal natural growth of plant life; but notwithstanding such unfavourable circumstances seedlings from self-sown seed were seen in many of the forests.

81. In the Poona Division owing to the failure of the latter rains a large proportion of the seedlings which had germinated from seeds naturally shed early in the season were unable to withstand the prolonged drought. Again in the drier portions of the district seeds which would have sprouted in ordinary years failed to do so entirely this year on account of the want of moisture.

82. In the Sátára Division the heavy torrential rains at the commencement of the season, and the subsequent lengthened drought, not only retarded the growth of seedlings, but to a great extent prevented the successful germination of seeds, which, where they were not washed out of the ground and carried away into the streams, rotted in the ground; while the unavoidable admission of large numbers of starving cattle into the closed reserves owing to the famine caused injury and destruction to many tender young seedlings which were either trodden down or browsed down.

83. Natural reproduction is never very prominent in the Sholápur Division, except in specially fertile localities; and this year even these, except where they are subject to the influence of river floods, have profitted little.

(2).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

84. Considerable attention was given as usual to artificial measures for growing trees. The ordinary methods such as ploughing and sowing in furrows sowing in pits, in seed-beds, dibbling under bushes and broad-casting have been followed both in the exploited coupes of the year and also in other selected localities, and the following table represents the work done during the year in the several divisions of the Central Circle :—

No.	Division.	Ploughing.		Sowing in pits.	Sowing in seed-beds and patches.	Dibbling under bushes, &c.	Broad-casting by Forest Guards.	Drill sowing.	Cost.
		Full.	Furrows.						
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	323	...	310	.....	607	2,509	...	360
2	West Khándesh	...	...	142	.....	.....	...	...	1,691
3	Násik	35	...	3,589	.....	.....	...	...	1,584
4	Ahmednagar	167	...	61,100 No.	.. ...	6,145 148,050 No.	7,480	978	1,346
5	Poona	416	...	3,312	.....	.....	818	...	4,501
6	Sátára	...	134	4,4300 No.	156,296 No.	.....	14,684	...	2,778
7	Sholápur	67	22	.....	.....	462	247	...	1,702
	Total ...	1,008	156	*7,353 Acres 105,400 Pits.	156,296 No.	7,214 Acres 148,050 No.	25,738	978	13,962

* Of the 7,353 acres 2,144 acres represent the work done by Forest guards.

85. The localities where the different methods are applied are briefly :— Ploughing and sowing in furrows take place in the bábul coupes exploited during the year, the soil being black and soft. Sowing in pits is undertaken in hard and murum soil, and on hill slopes, seeds sown in pits on the shady side of Euphorbia cactus and other thorny bushes have been remarkably successful even in the more arid parts of the divisions. Sowing in seed-beds or patches is adopted in the Sátára Division in the exploited teak coupes of the year as well as in other forest areas : and broad-casting is spread as usual over hill slopes treated for reboisement. The results have not been satisfactory owing to the unfavourable circumstances of the year, but the Divisional Forest Officer, Sátára, reports about the dibbling in bushes and the sowings made in patches in the following words.

"From reports received from the Range Forest Offieers and from what the Divisional Forest Officer has personally seen, the best results so far obtained are from 'patches' and 'dibbling in bushes.' The 'patches' are a treat to be seen and are written most enthusiastically by Range Forest Officers. The germination has been most successful and there is scarcely a patch that has not got its little cluster of 6 or 8 little teak seedlings, and as these patches have been made at intervals of 8 paces or about 20 feet apart, over the whole area of the coupes, the coupes are now well stocked with on the average 100 seedlings per acre."

(3).—*Early Thinnings.*

86. The forests in the Deccan are not yet so thickly stocked with trees as to allow the cutting of young and immature trees for the purpose of improving the growth of trees by thinning. Thinnings are sometimes required to be made along cart tracks and foot-paths passing through forests, and this work is generally performed by Forest Guards.

(4.)—*Other Operations for the improvement of Growing Stock.*

87. These operations consisted of eradicating the peerul creeper (Combretum) from the bábul reserves of the Bhusával Range of the East Khándesh Division, and the cutting of creepers generally in the forests of all other divisions.

88. Considerable activity has also been displayed in eradicating "prickly-pear", Opuntia dillenii; and the table below will show the extent of the work during the year, by paid-labour, as well as by Forest Guards :—

No.	Division.	By paid labour.	Cost.	By Guards.
		Area in acres.		Area in acres.
1	East Khándesh	...	...	.....
2	West Khándesh	...	...	.....
3	Násik	570	576	.....
4	Ahmednagar	4	574	963 Cart-loads.
5	Poona	...	...	.....
6	Sátára	17	540	.....
7	Sholápur	2	222	7
	Total ...	593	1,912	7 Acres. 963 Cart-loads.

(5).—*Experiments.*

89. In East Khándesh a few sucker plants of Millingtonia hortensis were obtained from Poona and were planted on the forest boundary lines, but they failed to survive the hot weather.

90. A small quantity of seeds of the Lagerstrœmia flos reginæ received from Assam was sown in the Dhulia and Dahiwel nurseries of the West Khándesh Division, and the young plants are reported to be thriving.